

Senate Resolution 1452

By: Senators Davis of the 22nd and Powell of the 23rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Belle Clark for her outstanding leadership in the Turpin Hill
2 neighborhood; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Belle Clark moved to the rural Augusta neighborhood of Turpin Hill in 1957
4 when it was a safe and tranquil place where children played freely; and

5 WHEREAS, by the late 1980's the neighborhood started to change with the presence of drug
6 dealers and prostitutes and violence following in the wake of the flourishing drug markets;
7 the sound of speeding cars and gunfire was a constant reminder of the dangers that
8 surrounded this once-peaceful community; and

9 WHEREAS, although her family encouraged her to move, Belle Clark did not give up on her
10 neighborhood and instead, in 1990, became a founding member of a neighborhood watch
11 program; and

12 WHEREAS, up until that point, no one called law enforcement for fear of retaliation, but this
13 handful of heroic association members, including Ms. Clark, began to make the calls and the
14 police presence increased; and

15 WHEREAS, the brave association members acquired golf carts and began patrolling their
16 streets; Belle Clark obtained cell phones for members through the help of federal grants so
17 the members could phone the sheriff's office immediately when they saw danger; and

18 WHEREAS, they called her the "neighborhood lady" and criminals knew she was "bad
19 news" as she courageously went out in the night unarmed to fight for her neighbors; and

20 WHEREAS, the success of the association and Ms. Clark's valiant efforts can be seen today
21 as this once-violent neighborhood is again a place where neighbors can have cookouts in
22 their yards and children can ride their bicycles without fear of harm; and

23 WHEREAS, the residents of Turpin Hill and the citizens of Georgia owe Belle Clark an
24 immeasurable debt of gratitude for her daily, life-risking vigil that led the way to a safer
25 place to live; and

26 WHEREAS, going beyond the call of duty, Belle Clark is an unparalleled and dedicated civil
27 servant that made Augusta, Georgia, a better place to live.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
29 heartily commend Belle Clark for her bravery and her diligent and compassionate service to
30 her community and to the State of Georgia.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
32 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Belle Clark.